

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Large Lakes Research Station
9311 Groh Road
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Phone: (734) 692-7649
Fax: (734) 692-7603
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River

News Release



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Contact: Steve Dushane (734) 692-7604
John Hartig (734) 692-7608

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CARRY OUT PRESCRIBED BURN AT FIX UNIT IN FRENCHTOWN TOWNSHIP

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service firefighters plan to conduct a prescribed burn in Berlin Township, on the east side of Port Sunlight Road. The firing will take place on Monday, May 13, 2013, on the Fix Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

The use of intentional firing must be carefully coordinated with expected weather and fire behavior. Firefighters will employ hand ignition techniques during Monday's firing operation, intended to target *Phragmites australis*, a non-native, aggressive aquatic plant responsible for the degradation of coastal wetland ecosystems along the long lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie over the past decade.

Refuge staff will utilize a number of communication outreach strategies to relay current information to local authorities, fire departments, and other government agencies throughout scheduled prescription fire activities. Officials predict the operation will produce a significant column of smoke which may be visible from surrounding areas; however, due to good atmospheric conditions projected for the burn, smoke will dissipate rapidly and impacts on surrounding communities are expected to be minimized.

Plans for prescribed burns are fully contingent upon weather conditions. Should firefighters need to cancel Monday's scheduled activity; an alternate date will be announced.

For additional information, please contact Steve Dushane, Assistant Refuge Manager at 734.692.7604 or Steve_Dushane@fws.gov or John Hartig, Refuge Manager at 734.692.7608 or John_Hartig@fws.gov.

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